

TRANSCRIPT—Diana Hensley, Fairview Oral History Project

Interviewee: Diana Hensley

Interviewers: Sandra Jackson and Ruth Ehrlich

Interview Date: August 24, 2018

Location: The home of Diana Hensley

Duration: 56:28

Interviewers: Today is August 24, 2018. This is Sandra Jackson and Ruth Ehrlich, and we're here at the home of Diana Hensley, who's a Fairview resident. She's agreed to help us with the Fairview History Project. We're just going to start talking Miss Diana and what we'd like to ask you to tell us at first is, do you care to tell us when you were born?

Diana Hensley: I was born November the 8th, 1953.

RE: And where were you born?

DH: Mission Hospital in Asheville, North Carolina.

RE: Wow...are you married?

DH: Divorced.

RE: Divorced, okay. Do you have children?

DH: No children. I had three miscarriages.

RE: Alright. So, have you lived here all your life?

DH: All my life. Well, I lived in Candler after I got married-

RE: --okay—

DH: --but then I moved back here, so.

RE: So where'd you go to school?

DH: Went to school at Fairview Elementary and Reynolds High School.

RE: What kind of work have you done? Did you work outside the home?

DH: I worked at Mission Hospital. Well I worked at CP Clare for about a year and then I worked at McDonalds on Tunnel Road for about maybe six months. Then I went to Mission Hospital and worked there for thirty years.

RE: What'd you do at Mission?

DH: I was a patient escort. I was — cleaned up the delivery rooms, I was—(chuckles)

RE: Wow.

DH: --secretary.

RE: So you did a lot of different things.

DH: I did a lot of different things at Mission.

RE: Did you retire from Mission?

DH: Well I had to stop working after I had my stroke in 2001.

RE: Thirty years, that is commendable. (DH chuckling softly) That is really commendable.

DH: And I loved every bit of it.

RE: Good, good. What was the thing you enjoyed most about working at Mission?

DH: Secretary work.

RE: Did you?

DH: Working in the operating room. I think that was my favorite of all.

RE: Well let's go back to being born here. So where did you live? You said you were born at Mission. Where did your family live? Tell us about that.

DH: We've lived on Joe Jenkins Road all our lives. My daddy was a builder.

RE: What was your daddy's name?

DH: Charles Marlowe. And he would build a house, well Momma and Daddy built, when they first got married they came over here and looked at this land because it was for sale. And there was fifty acres of it.

RE: Fifty? Wow.

DH: And so they bought it at a good price. Daddy decided he wanted to build houses, so he built houses and he'd build one and we'd move in to it, live in it for a while. Then he'd up and sell it and he'd build us another house and we'd move into it and then he'd sell it then he'd build us another house and so I've lived in about every house on the road just about.

RE: How about that. You learned to be real flexible didn't you?

DH: Yes.

RE: Did you have brothers and sisters?

DH: Four sisters, no brothers.

RE: Five girls in the family.

DH: Five girls in the family.

RE: And which one were you?

DH: Next to the oldest.

RE: Did your mama work at home? Did you have a farm? Did she work at home?

DH: She worked at home. She-

RE: I bet you kept her busy.

DH: -took care of all the girls.

RE: Wow. Now did you all farm the property?

DH: Daddy did, yes. He had a lot of cows. That's mostly all he had. He would bale hay and we'd put up the hay. (chuckling)

RE: That's amazing.

DH: We had a dog always. For a pet. That's the only pet we had. I remember one time daddy bought us a real small pony. But we didn't have it too long. But we had a lot of cows.

SJ: What happened to the pony?

DH: Do what?

SJ: What happened to the pony?

DH: I don't know what happened to it. I can't remember what happened to it.

RE: So when you were going to elementary school, that was the elementary school over here on the main road?

DH: Yes.

DJ: Okay. And what did y'all do for fun when you were out here on fifty acres?

DH: Well in the winter time me and my oldest sister, we used to sneak out of the house and go out and walk to the end of Joe Jenkins Road. Come back and play in the snow every night.

RE: At night? You couldn't get by with doing that during the day?

DH: Well, we didn't want to sneak out during the day. (RE laughs) It was just fun sneaking out of the night and walking all the way over to the main road.

SJ: Was that Tricia? (lots more laughing)

DH: Yeah that was Patricia.

RE: So Patricia was oldest.

DH: Then me, then Deborah, Sheila and Denise.

RE: Do they all live here close by?

DH: They all live close by. All of us live here on the road. Except for Tricia. Tricia lives down on Emma's Grove Road.

RE: So still in this vicinity?

DH: Yes. All of us still in the vicinity.

RE: And you've never thought about leaving?

DH: Well, I did that when I got married. I lived out in Candler while I was married, then I come back home, so...

RE: No place like home.

DH: No place like home. (both laughing)

RE: What was your mama's name? You said your dad's name was Charles?

DH: Alma Marlowe. McKinney.

RE: And was she here too?

DH: She was from Madison County.

SJ: But your dad was from here wasn't he?

DH: Yeah Daddy was from here, Garren Creek. That's where all my aunts and uncles lived was on Garren Creek.

RE: Where's Garren Creek?

Sandra Jackson: This way and up Church Road and—

RE: Okay, never mind—(laughing)

SJ: She doesn't know.

RE: Were your grandparents here too or just your mom and dad?

DH: My grandparents lived on Garren Creek. Mama's mother and daddy lived in Mars Hill.

RE: So your family's really rooted right in this area aren't they?

DH: Yes. They are.

RE: That's why I said we need the Marlowes on the list for sure

DH: And daddy had, there was ten brothers and sisters of his family and all of 'em are dead now except for one. And mama's family, there was nine of them, and mama's the only one living out of her brothers and sisters.

RE: Did your grandparents farm?

DH: Yes, they did.

RE: How long were you away at Candler? How long did you live in Candler before you came back to Fairview?

DH: About fifteen years.

RE: Did you miss being in Fairview?

DH: No. Not really. (laughter) But I was glad to be back.

RE: What do you like so much about Fairview?

DH: Just all the changes that's took place and everything's close.

RE: What kinds of changes have you seen? You've been here lots and lots of years, what kinds of changes have you seen in Fairview?

DH: Well the main road used to be just a two-lane road. And there wasn't much traffic at all. And everybody you saw you knew. And now it's turned into a four-lane road. And there didn't used to be no gas stations in Fairview. No red lights. No eatin' places but one which was Angelo's. But it wasn't Angelo's at the time, I can't remember what it was called.

SJ: Mrs. Grant owned it. Frances Grant, her husband owned it then.

DH: We used to just have one small post office, which was down where Burger King is now, and it was just a very, very small post office. It wasn't down there long. No gas stations was in Fairview.

RE: Where'd you buy your groceries?

DH: We had to go to where the golf course is. There was a Bi-Lo's there at the golf course and that's where we went to buy groceries was at Bi-Lo's.

RE: And where did you buy gasoline?

DH: Probably there too.

RE: There at the same place?

DH: Yeah, probably. I really can't remember. Well no, we used to buy gas...there was one gas station I remember, right there where you turn up Old Fort Road. There was a Wilson's Grocery Store right there, right where you turn up Old Fort Road. There was a Wilson's Grocery Store and daddy used to always stop there and buy gas off of him because daddy knew him real well.

RE: That's amazing. What's been the biggest change you've seen? You talked about the four-lane, was that the biggest change you've seen?

DH: I think it was. And Joe Jenkins Road used to be a dirt road and now it's paved. So that was a big change for us.

RE: How long ago was it paved?

DH: Oh it's been paved probably now ten or fifteen years I'd say.

RE: Was it still a dirt road when your daddy started building houses?

DH: Yes.

RE: Did your daddy build the houses back in here?

DH: Yes.

RE: Back in this area? Do you know how many houses he built total?

DH: No I don't. I wish I did. I'm saying probably ten or fifteen at least.

RE: And you think you lived in about every one of them?

DH: Yeah.

RE: That's amazing. So you ready to move again?

DH: No I'm ready to stay. (laughter) Now daddy didn't build my house. I'm ready to stay put now. I think. (chuckles)

RE: It's a nice area. So what did you do for fun? When you were growing up-other than sneaking out to play in the snow?

DH: Riding bicycles, getting on the tractor and picking up hay. Putting it up in the barn.

RE: You enjoyed that huh? Sounds like work to me.

DH: It was fun though. We put the hay on the trailer and helped daddy drive the tractor while we picked up hay. It was a lot of fun though. We had a lot of fun picking up hay.

RE: Did you go to church somewhere around here?

DH: We went to Cane Creek Baptist Church all our lives.

RE: Still going to Cane Creek?

DH: No, I'm going to Pleasant Grove now.

RE: Pleasant Grove. Ron Roberts is the pastor?

DH: Yes.

RE: He's a good guy.

DH: Very good preacher.

RE: Yeah, good guy, good guy, yeah, yeah. You said you had one dog growing up, that was your only pet?

DH: That's the only pet I can remember that we had.

RE: Only one dog for five girls.

DH: Mmm hmm.

RE: Do you know what kind of dog you had?

DH: No. A bird dog is all I know.

RE: Did your daddy hunt?

DH: Yes. He loved to hunt.

RE: Did the bird dog help him hunt?

DH: No. He really liked to deer hunt. That type of hunting.

RE: So did he do that on the property here?

DH: No, he would go someplace else and deer hunt. I can't remember where he went though. He would be gone for about a week or something, deer hunting.

RE: You ate a lot of venison?

DH: Yes. (chuckling) Lots. Lots of beef. Daddy would-he'd weigh a beef cow and he'd kill us a cow every year. We'd have lots of hamburger meat in the freezer. Lots of deer meat in the freezer.

RE: Did you garden?

DH: Yes. We'd garden and Daddy would plant lots of potatoes and we'd get out and daddy would plow the potatoes up with the tractor. We'd walk behind the tractor and pick up potatoes. Now that was a lot of fun.

SJ: That is fun.

RE: Ok. What other types of vegetables did you have in your garden?

DH: Lots of corn. Lots of green beans. Loved to fix green beans. I'm not crazy about doing corn at all. (chuckling)

RE: Tomatoes? Did you grow tomatoes?

DH: Grew a lot of tomatoes. Cucumbers. Squash.

RE: Do you think that your family -you know in terms of your garden was so large and your family was so large-do you think that garden made a big difference in your family's meal time?

DH: Yes.

SJ: Made it easier for your daddy to afford to feed you all, right?

DH: Correct.

RE: Oh yeah. With the beef and the vegetable garden. Did you freeze food or how did you preserve it?

DH: Yes. Momma would put up corn in the freezer and canned beans.

RE: Did you learn to do all that stuff too?

DH: Yes. But I don't do it. My oldest sister does it still.

RE: That's great. Did you have people who helped work in your yard or work on the property? Did your dad have folks who'd help work?

DH: He would get people to help put up hay. I remember when I was in high school daddy would say, "Now Diana if you can get some people to come haul me if you'd help put up hay ask 'em to come home with you and so I'd ask around and there'd be about four or five guys that would get off the bus with me. Well. We didn't used to have a bus that would bring us home. Mama or daddy one of 'em would have to pick us up at school before the bus would bring us home. Usually, when daddy would tell me to

bring home people to help put up hay, I'd usually get about four or five guys and they would come home with me. To get the money that daddy was going to pay 'em to help put up the hay.

RE: Were these...did they come again? Did they come more than once?

DH: They came whenever daddy put up hay, which was about three or four times a year.

RE: So they'd come more than once.

DH: Yes.

RE: And were they all just classmates?

DH: Yes.

RE: Was your school integrated? Were there mixed races in your school?

DH: Yes. There wasn't many but a few.

RE: A few that were integrated – okay. Okay, and when those folks that came with you to help work in your yard, were any of them the other race or any of those the other races other than—

DH: No.

RE: --caucasian? All caucasian that came.

DH: Yes.

RE: Do you remember who they were?

DH: No I can't remember who they were.

RE: But you didn't have a hard time recruiting anyone?

DH: No, I didn't have a hard time, not to make money I didn't have to.

RE: They wouldn't come just for good supper?

DH: No.

RE: Well then how'd those guys get home?

DH: I think we were old enough to be driving at that time. Sixteen. Seventeen years old.

RE: Tell us about the favorite house you lived in.

DH: Well, there wasn't really no particular favorite house that I liked that much.

RE: Was every house varied?

DH: Do what?

RE: Was every house different?

DH: Yes. They were all different. As the family kept on getting bigger daddy would have to build bigger houses. And I remember when daddy was building a house, before it was finished we would all sleep in

the basement. With all beds lined up and curtains up to partition us off from mama and daddy. I remember one of my girlfriends in particular coming home with us and she thought that was so funny, us all staying in the basement with all our beds lined up in a row.

RE: What was the purpose of staying in the basement before the house was finished.

DH: The upstairs wasn't finished yet.

RE: So was that... were you living in the house?

DH: Yes.

RE: So you were living there, not just sleeping there?

DH: Yes. Cause daddy had always sold the house that we was living in, so we had to get out so we'd be living in the basement of the house that daddy was building until the upstairs got finished.

RE: Well what happened to all the furnishings and things?

DH: In the basement.

RE: Everything was in the basement.

DH: Everything was in the basement. (chuckling)

RE: How long did you stay in the basement? Do you remember?

DH: I can't remember. I can't remember how long we stayed. But I've got one classmate that I was real close to. She talks about that today, how funny that was with all the beds lined up.

RE: What's her name? Do you remember her name?

DH: Becky Metcalf. And her name is Becky Payne now.

RE: And she thought that was funny?

DH: She talks about that today to me, how funny that was.

RE: So not only was your family living in the basement, you all would invite people over to stay the night and they would stay?

DH: Yes. They'd come home with me from school and spend the night.

RE: Isn't that great? That's funny.

DH: And every Saturday morning we had our one routine that mama would make us for breakfast and that was chocolate gravy to eat for breakfast.

RE: Chocolate gravy? Tell us about chocolate gravy.

DH: And we still eat it today. Chocolate gravy.

RE: I've never heard of it. Do tell.

DH: You take eight tablespoons of sugar —

RE: I'm going to write this down—

DH:-- two tablespoons of cocoa, two tablespoons of flour, and four cups of milk. Two cups of milk, two cups of milk. You mix all the dry ingredients up until you get it mixed up real good. And then add the milk. Or if you want to you can do half and half. Milk and water. But I like it with strictly milk 'cause it makes it richer. And cook it on the stove until it gets hot. Eat it over hot biscuits and it is good. Now daddy's mother is who gave us the recipe 'cause daddy's mother was the one that cooked it for her family.

RE: Chocolate gravy. You didn't use any kind of bacon grease or---

DH: no.

RE: --butter or anything?

DH: No. Just cooked it on top of the stove.

RE: So the cocoa melt and make the liquid to kind of make the roux?

DH: The cocoa is what made it chocolate

SJ: (in the background) It's just like a syrup type thing that you pour over biscuits

DH: But it was thick like gravy. The flour made it thick.

RE: Never heard of it. So you said you still eat it. How often do you eat it now?

DH: Whenever we get together. We like to play cards, we're a card-playing family. Daddy's family played Rook all the time. And my sisters and me always get together at one of their houses and if they come here I always make the chocolate gravy for all of them. We still keep the chocolate gravy going.

RE: You make the homemade biscuits too?

DH: No, we buy the biscuits now.

RE: How about that! Never heard of chocolate gravy and you had it every Saturday morning?

DH: When we were growing up we had it every Saturday morning.

RE: Did you have any other rituals that you did as a family? You played cards.

DH: Played cards. Lots of cards and we still do. But now we play Hand and Foot. Which is better than Rook I think.

RE: It's a tough game, isn't it.

DH: No.

RE: Hand and Foot?

DH: No. It's a good game. Easy game. [RE laughing]

SJ: I've never played, so I don't know.

RE: Tell us about going to the church. Tell us about Pleasant Grove. You still going? How long have you been a member?

DH: I've been a member of Pleasant Grove now probably seven or eight years now.

RE: Did you go someplace else before you started Pleasant Grove?

DH: Cane Creek Baptist.

RE: Oh you said that. I'm sorry, you said that.

DH: I went there all my life.

RE: Tell me about the preacher at Cane Creek. What was he like? Was it hellfire and brimstone?

DH: Yeah.

RE: Was it lecture, what was it?

DH: Hellfire and brimstone, and they've had good preachers at Cane Creek. And they just got a new preacher just recently. My mother and one sister still goes there.

RE: And how did you transition to Pleasant Grove?

DH: Well after I moved back from Candler, I decided just to go to Pleasant Grove. One of my other sisters was going to Pleasant Grove at the time. So I decided I'd go and see how the preacher was there. I liked him so—

RE: Now has Ron been the pastor since you've been there?

DH: He has been.

RE: Tell us what you think about how Ron's preaching. How would you describe his preaching?

DH: Very good. Strictly by the word. Very good man. Preaches the word.

RE: He's not very old either is he?

DH: 40's. Good guy, good preacher.

RE: Does the church have any social functions now?

DH: They're always doing something, always. They just went on a mission trip thing taking a lot of supplies to somewhere in West Virginia. They just got through doing that. We always take a group to Farmer's Daughter twice a year which is over in Tennessee. A good eating place.

RE: And what about at Cane Creek? When you went to Cane Creek, did they do any kind of social functions on a regular basis?

DH: Not too many but they did do some. Can't remember all that they did do.

RE: I'm thinking dinner on the ground, that kind of thing.

DH: Now they did that, yes. They did do that every year.

RE: Cane Creek did eat dinner on the ground?

DH: Yes. Every year. In August.

RE: Was that a homecoming celebration? They did dinner on the grounds.

DH: Yes.

RE: Tell us about one of those dinner on the ground experiences.

DH: Well really I can't really remember all of 'em, 'cause I was too young to remember exactly how they all was. But now, they've got a fellowship building and they eat in the fellowship building.

RE: Dinner on the ground, did you have one of those dinners on the ground that, years ago, and I don't know if this was happening-but they used to bring food and literally you'd sit on the ground and ate it.

DH: Yes. And they'd have long table set up where they put the food outside on the table. I do remember that.

SJ: And you'd have to try everybody's food so you don't hurt their feelings.

RE: That's right. And then you sat on the ground to eat though, right? 'Cause there wasn't fellowship halls, long ago. That's kind of one of the things that is going away.

DH: That's correct. Or stand on next to a car and eat on the car, back of the car.

RE: Oh, okay.

DH: But they would set up tables outside with chairs, sit in them.

RE: Do y'all have homecoming at Pleasant Grove now?

DH: Yes, we do.

RE: When's your homecoming?

DH: Third Sunday in August.

SJ: They just had it.

DH: Yes, just had it.

RE: Did you go?

DH: Yes.

RE: How was it? Big crowd?

DH: Big crowd, yes. We've got probably one hundred members. So yeah, we have a big church

RE: Now Pleasant Grove, if I remember correctly, has a big cemetery associated with it. Do you know anything about that? Do you know anything about the cemetery associated with Pleasant Grove?

DH: Yes. It's a good cemetery. The members get the plots for fifty dollars. I've got a plot there, to be buried there at Pleasant Grove. My sister doesn't have to-since I don't have no husband now since I'm

divorced-my sister's who is gonna bury me when I die. Unless I live to see the Lord come back which I possibly will because I think the Lord is coming back any day.

RE: So is that cemetery restricted to just the church members?

DH: No, anybody can be buried there but it's more if you're not a member. I can't remember how much it is if you're not a member.

RE: That's nice. It looks like a fairly nice cemetery, doesn't it?

DH: Yes.

RE: Pretty big. I mean relatively big.

DH: Very big. Very big cemetery. I've already got my plot there and my sisters won't have to worry about having to find me a place to be buried if I do die, or when the Lord comes back.

RE: You said the church has about 100 members, did it have a lot of visitors?

DH: Yes. You have a lot of members and visitors.

RE: What's the best thing that's happened to Fairview in the years that you've seen Fairview growing in terms of a business perspective or other growth? What's the best thing that's happened in Fairview?

DH: More eatin' places coming in. [laughing]

RE: You've got a favorite eating place in Fairview?

DH: Probably Angelo's and I like the different gas stations comin' in that's got eating places inside of them, I like that about Fairview now.

RE: And when you think about Fairview, Diana, and you think about that you've lived here all your life, is there anything you would not want to see changed about Fairview?

DH: No. I'd like to see more eating places come in to Fairview.

RE: What kind of eating places do you want to see?

DH: Probably a good steak house and a fish house.

RE: But there's nothing that would bother you, if it came to Fairview, if an industry came and started building houses around, that wouldn't bother you?

DH: I wouldn't want a plant to come in to Fairview, I don't think.

RE: Wasn't there one here at one time? Was it that Clare place?

DH: Yes and I did work there, that was my first job.

RE: Down across the river, that little place that's got a pond is that a plant?

SJ: That's CP Clare.

DH: That's a plant now. That's where CP Clare's used to be.

RE: And what's that now?

DH: I think it's Tyco now.

SJ: I can't remember what it's called now.

RE: o that's been there a while. That hasn't been too disruptive to Fairview, has it?

DH: No.

RE: I could see how something really could be [disruptive] here. How often did you go into downtown Asheville?

DH: I don't. I try to avoid downtown Asheville.

RE: Because?

DH: Just because of the people hangin' out there and things that's going on that I don't agree with.

SJ: You went with me and Shanna though to ACT.

DH: Yes, I did go with you and Shanna.

SJ: To ACT

RE: ACT?

SJ: Community theatre. I forget what we saw.

DH: But I try to avoid downtown Asheville.

RE: Do you? (chuckling)

DH: Yes.

RE: How far do you venture out from Fairview? Do you make it up to Reynolds?

DH: River Ridge.

SJ: Do you go to the mall?

DH: Mall. Yeah.

RE: So, about the mall is about as far as you adventure huh?

DH: Yes. Well, I do go to Biltmore occasionally. When I have to go to the doctor.

SJ: Well, you should go downtown and just look at the people. It's quite...different.

RE: What is it about those people hanging out that you don't like in Asheville? You said you don't agree with them?

DH: Just...things has changed. Used to when we were growing up, we wouldn't think a thing about going and walking down the street in downtown Asheville. Any time, day or night. I just don't think it's safe to do that now. 'Cause you never know what's gonna happen.

RE: You know there's a number of rock places around here. Were there quarries around here when you were growing up?

DH: No there wasn't.

RE: Do you remember them coming in to existence around here?

DH: The only one I do remember was the one on Cane Creek. Oh, I can't remember who owns that now.

SJ: Stills?

DH: Stills yeah. I think that was the first one that came here.

SJ: But they're not really doing the rock now, they just have the rock to build.

RE: Because there's a lot of stone around here and I understood there was a quarry nearby. Somewhere. I don't know where it is.

HD: No, I don't know where it is either.

RE: What about funeral parlors? You talked about being buried in the ah---I almost said parking lot--- (laughing)---in the cemetery. What about funeral homes or were there funeral homes around here when you were growing up?

DH: On Tunnel Road. Groce Funeral Home and Anders Rice, that's the only two I can ever remember being here.

SJ: Tunnel Road one was called Dunn and Williams though, then. Remember that?

DH: Yeah, I remember that one, too. But the ones that I know most about are Anders Rice and Groce because those were the two that my daddy's people always used, mainly Groce is what they used.

RE: So, those have been around for a long time 'cause you talk about your daddy's people? Is your daddy still living now?

DH: No, he died in '99.

RE: And what about your mama?

DH: Mama's still living. She's 91 and still going strong.

RE: And where's mama living now?

DH: She lives right up above me.

RE: How about that! You check in on her very often?

DH: We talk every day, yes.

RE: You say she's going strong?

DH: Yeah, she can run circles around every one of us.

RE: How about that.

DH: Now she does have one problem but it's not...it causes her blood to get low so she has to have blood every so often. But other than that, she's in good health. To be 91 and still doing good.

RE: That's great. That's a blessing isn't it for sure.

DH: Yes, it is.

RE: Did you have a lot of playmates in the neighborhood?

DH: Yes, we did.

RE: You had those four sisters. So, you had playmates nearby?

DH: Yes, people that would buy our houses usually would have girls. Mostly girls, and boys, our age. We'd get out together and play in the woods. One time I remember playing in the woods and we made a moss house.

RE: A moss house?

DH: We would go out and dig up moss and bring it to our playhouse that we were building in the woods and we'd get rock and outline the rooms in rock and then we'd put the moss down for carpet. In our house. In the woods. And I remember one time digging up moss and I got fifty bee stings at one time 'cause there was a bee's nest, yellow jacket nest, in the moss.

RE: Oh my.

DH: I got fifty bee stings at one time, I remember.

RE: What did your mama and daddy do with fifty bee stings on their little girl?

DH: I remember one of their nextdoor neighbors, Mr. Mason, he'd put snuff, wet snuff, on my bee stings. I know I had to go to bed and sleep.

RE: Wet snuff on your bee stings.

DH: Yes.

RE: Did it take the sting out?

DH: Yes, it did.

RE: Did he give you a nickel?

DH: No, I don't remember getting no nickel. I just remember I had to go to bed and sleep until I got to feeling better. Fifty bee stings.

RE: Wow! Did you make any more moss houses?

DH: No that's the only one I ever remember making. That was enough.

RE: What other kind of games did y'all play, you bunch of kids in the neighborhood?

DH: Hide and seek and we'd get out of the night and we'd catch lightning bugs and put 'em in a jar and bring 'em in the house and they'd light up our bedroom of a night in the dark.

RE: Did you catch june bugs and tie a string around their legs?

DH: We didn't do that much but we did occasionally.

RE: You had to make your fun right?

DH: Yeah, we did. Now in the winter time we'd get on a sled and go out snow sledding. And we'd always make snow cream when it snowed. And we used to have lots and lots of snow when I was growing up. It doesn't snow nothing like it did when I was growing up. We used to have seven or eight or nine inches of snow when I was growing up and now we're lucky to get 5 or 6 inches now.

RE: You like snow?

DH: Oh yes. I did when I was young. I still like it but not as much as I used to.

RE: Now tell us about the snow cream; you told me about chocolate gravy, now tell me about snow cream.

DH: Oh, snow cream is good. And when Daddy was alive he would always want a hot pound cake to go with snow cream.

SJ: That I like.

RE: Now tell us about snow cream. How is it made?

DH: You get one cup of sugar, one cup of milk, a teaspoon of vanilla, one egg. You beat the egg and the sugar and then add snow 'til you get as much snow as you wanted until it gets thick and keep on adding snow to it until you get it as thick as you want it and then add the vanilla. Very good, very good and I still make it to this day. I love snow cream.

RE: So, you really do like to see the snow come. And you're not hesitant to make snow cream today.

DH: No, I still make it.

RE: Good for you. Did you ever have any crime in your neighborhood? Any problems with crime?

DH: No, we didn't have it and still don't.

RE: Do you remember any major environmental events, like fire or flood or big snow or anything like that?

DH: Just big snows like I said.

RE: Did you miss a lot of school?

DH: Occasionally we did, yes.

RE: Had to go half the summer sometimes, didn't you?

DH: Yes, we did.

RE: How about the doctors and the medical facilities around here. Were they okay growing up or what were they like?

DH: They were good. They were all on Biltmore Avenue like most of them are - uptown.

RE: No transportation problems? Did you get there pretty readily?

DH: No, we always made it fine.

RE: Do you remember if there were any inns or boarding houses in this area?

DH: Not that I can think of. Not that I remember.

RE: Any community gatherings?

DH: Just getting together and play cards that's what we mostly did.

RE: Anything else on your mind?

DH: Not that I can think of now.

RE: What's your best memory of Fairview, can you remember one time that was just so great that you remember it forever?

DH: Not really.

RE: Did your mama, we were talking about their mamas getting feed sacks and flour sacks and making clothes. Did your mamas do that?

DH: No, mama didn't never do that. I do remember daddy used to plant tobacco and we would help daddy plant tobacco. But he didn't do that much, maybe two or three years is all he did that and we used to help do tobacco, tie it up.

RE: Get worms off of it and all that stuff?

DH: No, we didn't get worms off it.

RE: But you did tobacco.

DH: We did tobacco maybe 2 or 3 years, maybe only 2 years.

RE: Did you have a big barn that you could put the tobacco in?

DH: Yes.

RE: So, tell us about the property, your dad was building houses but you had a big barn?

DH: Yes, we had a big barn out from where we lived. We'd hang the tobacco in the barn. Then Daddy would take it when it was time to sell it, I think daddy only did that maybe two years.

RE: Do you remember if there was a subsidy? Did the government pay him anything to grow the tobacco?

DH: He just sold the tobacco. I don't really remember that much about it because he only did it two years. My mama's brothers, they did it all their lives. Some of them did, not all of them.

RE: Was that in this area?

DH: Mars Hill. Now they did do tobacco a lot out there.

RE: Sandra, can you think of anything else. I want to try that chocolate gravy.

DH: It's good. You tell me when you try it.

SJ: I've never tried it. I've heard a lot about it.

RE: I have never heard of chocolate gravy.

DH: Now you've got to have the good hot biscuits to put it on.

RE: Understood, to me that would be just forget the gravy and give me the hot biscuits. Do you butter the biscuits first?

DH: Yes, I do, but none of the rest of my family does. I had an aunt that liked butter on the biscuits, so I do, too. Good eating.

RE: Good eating. You like to eat, huh? What's your favorite cuisine? You mentioned Angelo's a couple of times. That's Italian, isn't it, and Greek?

SJ: It's just home-style cooking. And Greek. So what's your favorite kind of food?

DH: I like fish real well. I like Bay Breeze awfully well. I like Angelo's real well, right across the road, which is very handy.

RE: So's an ice cream shop.

DH: Yes, so is an ice cream shop. We've got a lot of things that came into Fairview since we were young.

RE: Anything you'd like to see Fairview add?

DH: No that's about the only things I can think of.

RE: Anything else you want to tell us about Fairview?

DH: No, I think that's all I can say.

RE: But you're going die here, you think huh?

DH: Unless the Lord come back and I think he will come back before I die. I don't think it's going to be that much longer -- He will come back.

RE: How do you know Sandra?

DH: Through school and the Welcome Table we go to together. It's supposed to start back next week on Thursday. Well, this week on Thursday.

RE: Tell me about the Welcome Table because that sounds like a community event. Is it?

DH: Yes, anybody can come that wants to come.

RE: And where is it?

SJ: It's at the Presbyterian log cabin church, behind the library.

RE: How often is it done?

DH: Once a week every Thursday. Anybody can come that wants to come.

RE: Bring a covered dish.

DH: No, they've got cooks there.

(SJ talks about that event)

SJ: And you pay what you can afford. Some put more, some put less but don't have homeless like a lot of places so this is more a community gathering.

DH: Now I do a job there. I bag up so many bags of fruit that I bag up. I put two fruits in a bag and they take the bags over to the Fairview school.

[SJ in the background is saying what it's for]

DH: And then they get other things to put in this backpack they take home for the weekend. I don't know what all goes in the backpack. Do you know what all goes in the backpack? [more chatter]

SJ: No, I don't.

RE: So how well attended is the Welcome Table?

SJ: Hundred, some days. Some days 70.

DH: Hundred. Sometimes two hundred.

SJ: No, I don't think they ever have two hundred.

DH: No, probably not.

[Discussion continues between all three but it's not a part of the interview really.]

RE: So, you all welcome people to the community and isn't that amazing?

DH: Oh, you hadn't ever been to the Welcome Table?

RE: I heard about it but I've never known the details.

DH: You get a very good meal there

RE: That is so nice.

SJ: They make salads; fruit salads, potato salads...

[RE comments on how nice this is for the community, very welcoming all agree. RE mentions the Fairview Fire Department...]

DH: I used to be a member of the Fairview Fire Department. Fairview didn't used to have a Fire Department in Fairview when I was growing up, that's something new that came to the area. It's good to have now. Now we've got two, one right down here in Fairview and one on Old Fort Road.

RE: Well, I think that about wraps everything up unless you have anything you'd like to add?

DH: No, I can't think of anything. I hope I did good.

END OF TRANSCRIPT

Transcribed by Jan Wolff, November 12, 2019